

**The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows**

1. A method of controlling sperm comprising the step of contacting the sperm with an effective amount of copper silicate.
2. Use of an effective amount of copper silicate as a contraceptive.
- 5 3. Use according to claim 2 wherein the copper silicate is applied to a site expected to receive or come into contact with sperm.
4. Use according to claim 3 wherein the site is a body part such as a reproductive organ or part thereof.
5. Use according to claim 3 wherein the site is selected from the group consisting  
10 of: part of the reproductive tract, the penis, vagina or cervix.
6. Use according to claim 3 wherein the site is a contraceptive device or agent such as a condom or the like.
7. Use according to claim 6 wherein the site is a sex aid.
8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the effective amount is selected from  
15 the group consisting of: 1-10g, 2-8g and 4-6g.
9. A contraceptive formulation comprising copper silicate and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 10.A contraceptive formulation according to claim 9 adapted for topical administration.
- 20 11.A contraceptive formulation according to claim 9 or 10 selected from the group consisting of: a liquid, cream, or gel.

12. A contraceptive formulation according to claim 9 wherein the copper silicate is present as a solution.
13. A contraceptive formulation according to claim 9 wherein the copper silicate is present as an acidified solution.
- 5 14. A contraceptive formulation according to claim 13 comprising acetic acid.
15. A contraceptive formulation according to claim 13 or 14 with a pH of about 3-6.
16. A contraceptive formulation according to claim 14 wherein the final concentration of acetic acid in the formulation is about 0.1% wt - 2% wt.
- 10 17. A contraceptive formulation according to claim 9 wherein the copper silicate is present as a micronized solid.
18. A contraceptive formulation according to claim 9 capable of acting as a lubricant.
19. A contraceptive formulation according to any one of claims 9 to 18 wherein the  
15 concentration of copper is approximately 0.01% - 10% w/w.
20. A contraceptive formulation according to any one of claims 9 to 18 wherein the concentration of copper is approximately 0.05% – 0.5% w/w.
21. A contraceptive formulation according to any one of claims 9 to 18 wherein the concentration of copper is approximately 0.05% – 0.3% w/w.
- 20 22. A contraceptive device comprising an amount of copper silicate that is able to control sperm.
23. A device according to claim 22 wherein the copper silicate is incorporated thereon.

24.A device according to claim 22 wherein the copper silicate is incorporated therein.

25.A device according to any one of claims 22 to 24 in the form of a barrier agent.

26.A device according to claim 25 wherein the barrier agent is selected from the  
5 group consisting of: sponges, films, cervical caps, diaphragms and condoms.

27.The use of copper silicate as a spermicide or for the preparation of a formulation for controlling sperm.